(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Department of Justice had invited the views of the High Courts and the State Governments in July 2001 regarding the number of working days in the High Courts and the curtailment of their vacations. Replies have since been received from 11 High Courts and 6 State Governments. The High Court of Uttaranchal has increased the number of its working days in a year from 210 to 224 and the High Court of Karnataka from 210 to 214; High Court of Jharkhand has no objection if any decision is taken at appropriate level to increase the number of working days; other High Courts have not favoured any increase in the number of their working days. Of the six State Governments which have so far responded, the Mizoram Government has supported the present level of atleast 210 working days per year for the High Court; the Government of Maharashtra, Goa and Rajasthan have favoured increase in the number of annual working days of their respective High Courts; the Government of Meghalaya has no objection to the increase in the number of the working days in the High Court and the Government of Punjab has supported the view of the Punjab and Haryana High Court that it is not necessary to curtail the vacations.

Setting-up of permanent Benches of Supreme Court

3037. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Bar Associations, other bodies and Members of Parliament have requested Government to provide equal opportunities to all in operation of our legal system and set-up permanent Benches of Supreme Court in Southern, Western and North-Eastern Parts of the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction; and

(c) the reasons for not setting up Benches of Supreme Court outside Delhi in the interest of litigants and to provide them cheap justice?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, in consultation with the President, from time to time, appoint. In the wake of representations received from various sources, the proposal for setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi was referred to the Chief Justice of India for consideration. The Government has been informed that the Full Court at a meeting of the Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court on 30th April, 2001 have unanimously opposed the setting up of the Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi.

Economic embezzlement by registered companies

†3038. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of economic embezzlement in a number of registered companies in the country have come to light during March, 1998 to March, 2002;

(b) if so, the names of these companies;

(c) the embezzled amount for which allegations have been levelled against them; and

(d) the agency by whom investigation has been made in respect of each company?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.